



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 • 415 864-8000 • FAX 415 431-5860 • E-MAIL office@annunciation.org

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NOVEMBER 2000

OFFICIAL:

PARISH ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 5TH

Parishioners of the Annunciation Cathedral are invited to attend the Cathedral's second Parish Assembly for the year 2000, which will be convened Sunday, November 5, 2000 following the Divine Liturgy. A complimentary light luncheon will be served prior to the Assembly. While everyone is welcome to attend the luncheon, only parishioners in good standing, as defined by the Uniform Parish Regulations, may participate in the Assembly, which has been timed so as to last about an hour.

The agenda for the November 5th Parish Assembly is as follows:

Opening Prayer

1. Call to order and election of the Assembly Chair

2. Minutes of the April 16, 2000 Assembly (5 min.)

3. Reports:

- a. Stewardship, membership, census (5 min.)
- b. Technology (2 min.)
- c. Youth (5 min.)
- d. Building (2 min.)
- e. SF Waldorf School (2 min.)
- f. Biennial Clergy-Laity (10 min.)
- g. Festival (2 min.)
- h. Other social events, Western Barbecue, Pentahiliarkon (2 min.)
4. Representatives to the February 8-10 Clergy Laity (2 min.)
5. Nomination of Parish Council candidates (3 min.)
6. Election of Board of Elections (3 min.)
7. Report of Board of Auditors (5 min.)
8. Election of Board of Auditors (2 min.)
9. Treasurer's Report (10 min.)
10. Old Business
11. New Business
- Closing Prayer

PENTAHILIARIKON: A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

As the November issue of the Herald went to press, the Pentahiliaikon Committee announced that about 100 (of 250) tickets had been sold. Each ticket, at \$200, entitles two people to the gala dinner and drawing that will be held at the Annunciation Cathedral Korinthias Center Saturday, November 18, beginning at 6:30 p.m., cocktails, followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Four Seasons will cater the event that evening, serving a delectable four-course meal of your choice. The theme of the evening is an underwater fantasy, with imaginative decorations that will make this year's Pentahiliarikon a must-attend event.

The Pentahiliarikon returns to the Cathedral after a ten-year hiatus. Remembering past Pentahiliarika, people are looking forward to its return, and the Committee, headed by Tom and Liberty Nuris and Tessie Obester, are confident all tickets will be sold. A clarification is needed about the tickets. Let's say, you are a single person and wish to come to the

Pentahiliarikon. You would get a single relative or friend to go in "halvsies" with you. Together, you would purchase one ticket. Both of you would come to the dinner. When you win a prize, hopefully the top prize of \$5,000, you would then split that prize; each of you would get half. Every tenth ticket will get a prize, as will "early birds," and so your chances of winning are increased tremendously. But, it's not just the prize. It's a very special evening, and the opportunity, of course, to help the Cathedral's Building Fund, where about half the proceeds are expected to go. The other half pays for the dinner and the prizes.

This year's Pentahiliarikon honors Effie and Peter Tamaras, who were selected by the Committee as two of the many people who in past years worked hard to ensure the success of the Pentahiliarikon and who have offered years of service to the community, on the political scene as well as to the Annunciation Cathedral. For reservations and further information, please call the Cathedral at 415 864-8000.

PAO.I. LIBRARY PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD DECEMBER 10

Parishioners of the Cathedral who are in good standing will have the opportunity to vote for seven members of the Parish Council on December 10, following the Divine Liturgy. Those currently serving on the Parish Council, whose terms end on December 31, 2000, as well as other parishioners in good standing who wish to run for the Parish Council, are invited to submit a declaration of candidacy form by Monday, November 6. Nominations of candidates may also be made at the November 5 Parish Assembly.

All candidates will meet with the Cathedral Dean on Wednesday, November 8, at 7 p.m. for a required seminar, in accordance with the Uniform Parish Regulations. Once elected, and ratified by the Metropolitan, the seven will join the other eight members of the Parish Council whose terms expire in 20001 and together make up the Cathedral's Parish Council for the year.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

PENTAHILIARIKON

NOVEMBER 18, 2000

6:30 pm

Annunciation
Cathedral

Don't Miss It!

2001 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD 2000

One of the nice ways in which we greet each other at Christmas is through the **community Christmas Card**. Names are gathered during the Food Festival and by means of an announcement in the Herald. A \$20 donation is made to defray the cost of printing and mailing the card. This year, however, names were not gathered during the Food Festival, and so it becomes necessary to do so by means of this announcement and by the office calling last year's participants. Please call the Cathedral office at 415 864-8000 and indicate to Mariam that you wish to be included in the year 2000 Christmas Card. Or, if you prefer, please return the form below. The deadline is Sunday, December 3.

MARINA TAYLOR LEADS SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Marina Taylor, a member of the Annunciation Cathedral, who has attended a number of Bible Studies in past years, and who has considerable knowledge of the Bible, leads a Sunday Bible Study at the Cathedral following the Divine Liturgy.

A number of issues are discussed, including Holy Confession, Our Repentance and Return to God, and Our Struggle for the Crown of Life. The Bible is used as the basis for discussion, especially the New Testament, as are the writings of the Church Fathers. Later, other issues will be considered, notably, the second coming, or *parousia*. As we approach certain Holy Days, such as Christmas and Pascha, reference will be made to those Feasts and their role in our salvation will be examined.

We thank Mrs. Taylor for leading this study.

FATHER STEPHEN CONTINUES "BACK TO BASICS" COURSE

Father Stephen has been offering a "back to basics" course designed primarily for our Sunday School teachers, but open to anyone who wishes to participate. The classes are held Tuesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m. The classes cover topics that are-

basic to our Orthodox Christian Faith, including the Bible, the Ecumenical Councils, the Priestly Offices and Vestments, the Sacraments, the Divine Liturgy (treated separately), the Church Fathers, Holy Days and Feast Days, Saints and Martyrs and their Role, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, the Church Canons, the Liturgical Year, and the Liturgical Books of the Church.

In many cases, this is a "refresher course," designed to reinforce much of what was learned (or should have been learned) in Sunday School. In other cases, the class covers material which is not taught in Sunday School, and so this should be a "must" for Sunday School teachers and all who wish to learn more about the Orthodox Church, its Faith and its Practices.

DEACON PAUL SCHROEDER LEADS ACTION MINISTRY COURSE

"If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus, also, faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." (Catholic Epistle of James, 2:15-17)

With the exception of Thanksgiving Day, November 23rd, Deacon Paul Schroeder is leading an eleven week study entitled: ACTION! Envisioning Ministry to our Community. The course consists of alternating weeks of studies: one week is a more traditional Bible study in the Letter of James, while the alternate week consists of a topical discussion (poverty, homelessness, substance abuse, AIDS, and the like) with invited speakers and a forum for discussion. It is hoped that the topics and speakers will dovetail with the previous week's biblical themes.

The second to the last session will consist of meeting "off-site" to engage in some form of actual ministry, to be determined by the group in the course of study. The last session will be a wrap-up/debrief. Parishioners and friends of the Cathedral are invited to attend this interesting and challenging course. We thank Father Paul for offering this engaging study and for his continued services to the Annunciation Cathedral community. Should you have any questions, meanwhile, please feel free to call him at the Diocese office, at 415 753-3075.

CHRISTMAS CARD SIGNUP FORM

Yes, I/we wish to be included in the Annunciation Cathedral's **Year 2000 Christmas Card**. Enclosed is a check in the amount of **\$20** for each line entry. Please list me/us, as follows:

Please return to:

**Annunciation Cathedral,
245 Valencia Street,
San Francisco, CA 94103**

Make checks payable to:

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

BULLETIN FAUX PAS

These sentences actually appeared in a church bulletin or were announced in a church service:

- Our next song is "Angels We Have Heard Get High."
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

Advance Notice!

CRAB FEED

January 26, 2001
Don't Miss It!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

October has flown by at the Cathedral with all the activities and plans abounding.

I hope your Halloween was as much fun as those who attended the Joy Halloween

Party extravaganza. Father Stephen informs me that over 50 children attended this great event. My disappointment was that I was unable to attend. After all Halloween is one of those holidays that is fun, fun, fun. Congrats to those who organized this wonderful party for our Joy participants.

Well our final tallies from our great Taste of Greece festival have been completed and our books are closed according to festival Chair Paul Sogotis. At our Festival Roundup dinner thanking all who participated it was announced and a report circulated that we have netted close to \$90,000. after all bills were paid. A big round of applause for and halos for Paul Sogotis and all the members of the steering committee for organizing and making it possible for all of us to work so diligently towards one of the best festivals ever. The thank you dinner was absolutely delicious and my thanks to Loula Vriheas and her committee for providing such a wonderful dinner. Yum.....

The Parish Council held its second retreat on Saturday, October 28. Those of us who attended felt very positive about the discussions and brainstorming that occurred. We are continuing to develop a mission statement for our Cathedral that will allow all who enter to know what we are about. The discussions centered around three areas: spiritual,

administrative, and social/educational. Many ideas were placed on the table in an effort to facilitate the administrative areas of the church so that more emphasis can be placed on the spiritual and educational areas for our parishioners. There is strong feeling that we need to timeline and plan where we want to be in the years that follow. There needs to be a parish council liaison for all organizations so that communication flows in the Church. Father Stephen will outline an org chart for the administrative areas of the church and bring them to the Parish council to assess the resources that are needed in the Church. Our personnel committee is working on a new personnel booklet for all staff and volunteers in the Church. A survey will be developed so that all members of the Cathedral can have input. On Sundays the office should be open from 12:15 to 1:00 PM so that parishioners can access the office to pay bills or ask pertinent questions. And finally, we are looking towards future financial endeavors that will allow us to pursue our goals.

I am happy to report that slow but sure we are edging towards our 250 tickets sold for the Pendhilariko. Don't miss this truly unique event! You won't be disappointed. Please don't wait till the last minute to get your tickets as we need to publish a program with your name and

number in it. I know I can't wait to see who wins.....

Also we are looking for a chair for a New Year's eve party at the Cathedral. Anybody interested? We hope we can make this a fun event for all age groups in the community.

As November approaches I hope you take a moment with your families to say a prayer together and acknowledge all that we have to be thankful for. Enjoy your Thanksgiving and don't eat too much.

Patricia Aleck
Parish Council President

FATHER GREGORY OFIESH TO RETIRE; TESTIMONIAL BEING PLANNED

After 37 years of service to St. Nicholas Antiochian Church, Father Gregory Ofiesh will be retiring, effective December 31, 2000. The community will hold a testimonial dinner for him and Khourieh (Presbytera) Mary Jane on Saturday, December 2, at the St. Nicholas Banquet Room, 5200 Diamond Heights Boulevard, San Francisco. Those wishing to attend should contact St. Nicholas at 415 648-5200.

The Annunciation Cathedral is indebted to the St. Nicholas parish and to Father Gregory for their many acts of kindness shown to us, especially in the aftermath of the Loma Prieta earthquake.

HEALTH SURVEY RESPONSES KEEP POURING IN

A committee of health care professionals, parishioners of the Annunciation Cathedral, responsible for the recent two-page survey inviting our anonymous response to a number of questions dealing with health (physical, emotional, spiritual), has been busy assessing the responses as these have been coming in. Your responses are helping define the scope of the committee's work, as they undertake a parish-wide effort to help our people access health care agencies and assistance.

2001 CLERGY-LAITY FEBRUARY 8-10

The year 2001 Clergy-Laity Assembly of the Diocese of San Francisco will be held February 8-10 at the St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center, this year to be preceded by the Clergy Retreat, also to be held at the St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center, February 5-7. Since the Uniform Parish Regulations state that each parish shall be represented at the Clergy-Laity by three delegates, one being the Parish Priest and one being the Parish Council President, the third will be designated by the Parish Council at our

November 5th Parish Assembly. In this way, the concerns and the recommendations of the Annunciation Cathedral community will be heard at the Diocesan Clergy-Laity, where the representatives of all our Parishes have the opportunity to learn from one another, thus strengthening our Diocese as a whole and, in turn, strengthened as a community through the experiences of others.

IOCC DINNER IN CASTRO VALLEY NOVEMBER 12

The "Remembering Home" dinner of the Northern California Region of IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) will take place on Sunday, November 12, 2000 at the Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church, 20104 Center Street, Castro Valley. This evening of food, folk music and dance benefiting IOCC's worldwide humanitarian efforts, will begin with pan-Orthodox Vespers at 4:30 p.m. A reception and silent auction will follow, at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. The donation is \$40 per person. Checks may be made payable to IOCC-Remembering Home and mailed to 2718 Sherbear Drive, San Ramon, CA 94583. For further information, you may call 925 831-0169.

FATHER STEPHEN TO ATTEND CLERGY-LAITY IN CONSTANTINOPLE

Father Stephen will join representatives from our Diocese, led by His Eminence, Metropolitan Anthony, who will participate in the November 25-December 1 first-time-ever Clergy Laity of all the parishes in the world which are under the direct jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. This event is part of the millennium series sponsored by the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Earlier this year a symposium on the environment was held in Constantinople, followed by a gathering of youth representatives from around the world, as noted in our October Herald. The Clergy-Laity is the third and final event in this series. The Clergy-Laity will examine the parish and its leitourgia (i.e. its function as the sacramental Christian community). It will feature a number of renown speakers and group as well as plenary discussions among the delegates on issues affecting the life of our parishes. The group will also be present at the "throne-feast" of the Patriarchate on November 30, the Feast of St. Andrew the First-Called of the Apostles, who established the the Church of Constantinople. Father Stephen will depart for Constantinople on November 24rd and return on December 2.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

JOY IS BACK!

Joy kicked off its first event with a bang! A Halloween costume party was held at the Cathedral on Sunday, October 29th with great success! Over 55 children participated in bobbing for apples, carving and decorating apples, making key chains, among many other activities. Both parents and children enjoyed dinner together, making this a wonderful community builder. If you have a child 7-12 years old, call the church office to register them in JOY.

JOY in November will meet after Sunday School, in the church hall on Sunday, November 26th to go to a new release movie at the theater. Registered children of JOY will receive a voting ballot to vote for which movie they wish to see. (The Grinch, Dalmations, Rugrats) Group tickets will be purchased for those who call Denise Yeilding @ 415-585-5883. If you do not respond, but wish to attend, you may simply get the information from the church office and you may attend the event, with your child, by purchasing a regular ticket at door. Everyone is welcome.

ALTAR BOYS RESPONDING!

As a result of our articles in the September and October issues of the Herald, we now have a group of young men who are committed to serving in the altar on a regular basis. Not only do the boys have the satisfaction of serving in this way, they also learn much about our Orthodox Faith by participating in the sanctuary. They have the opportunity to observe the Office of Oblation (the first part of the Divine Liturgy, during which the Holy Gifts are prepared, in the sanctuary and thus out of sight of the congregation), and to be an active part of this most important worship of our Faith. We can use three additional altar boys, however. Young men, ages 10 and above, are invited to speak with Father Stephen and indicate their willingness to be of service to the Cathedral as altar boys.

GREEK SCHOOL MEETS EVERY SATURDAY

Meanwhile, Greek School began on Saturday, September 16, with only a handful of students. Just twelve years ago, our Greek School had more than 50 students. Now, we are down to 1/10th of that. One reason for this is the fact that the Greek language is not seen by some as a vital or necessary part of being a member of the Church, or of education in general. Then, there are those parents who speak Greek to their children at home, supposing this to be enough of an exposure. A few are fortunate enough to go to Greece during the summer months and consider their exposure to the Greek language there to be sufficient. In any case, our Greek School is open and functioning each and every Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and we continue to urge parents to avail themselves of this unique opportunity for their children to learn the language of one of the world's foremost civilizations. For further information, please call the Cathedral at 415 864-8000.

In other Greek School news, the Annunciation Cathedral hosted an all-day Greek School teachers' conference on Saturday, October 21. Under the leadership of Eleni Dumas, this conference was very well attended by Greek School representatives from all over the Diocese. The conference considered educational and

other resource materials as well as varying methods of teaching the Greek language to children. The Honorable Dr. Taxiarhis Aghis Christopoulos, Consul General of Greece, and Dr. Mavromatis, educational coordinator for the Consulate, were also in attendance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TO OFFER SPECIAL CLASS ON HUNGER ISSUES

On Sunday, November 12th, the Sunday School at Annunciation will offer a special class to all children ages 8-16 years of age. The class is entitled "Hunger 101." This will be a hands-on learning experience that puts each participant in the place of a low-income person trying to make ends meet. During the session, the children's challenge is to manage their resources and get enough food to feed their family-- at the grocery store, from the soup kitchen, by applying for food stamps, or by asking people around for help. This experience will guide a discussion about hunger in SF and fuel the children into wanting to be part of the solution.

This class will kick off the Sunday School's annual FOOD DRIVE which will begin November 12th and continue until Christmas. All parishioners are invited to participate in the food drive. Donations will be made to the San Francisco Food Bank. (Please remember: no glass jars, no perishables). To learn more about the San Francisco Food bank, visit their website at www.sffoodbank.org <<http://www.sffoodbank.org>> .

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORTS OVER 125 STUDENTS (AND GROWING)

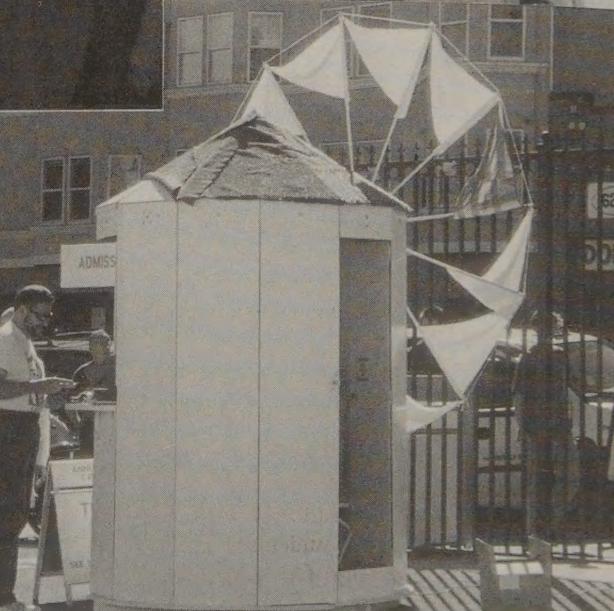
Sunday School began on Sunday, September 10, with 125 students enrolled in this year's program. As we have mentioned in previous issues of the Herald, our Sunday School has been growing in recent years but, mostly, with children up to grade 5. It is gratifying to see more students this year in grades 6 and above. Already, we are beginning to see that our 10 classrooms may not be sufficient two and three years down the road. This increase is attributable to our teaching staff, encouragement by our parents and, of course, our children. Increasingly, Sunday School has become mainly responsible for the religious education of our children. It is where moral values are shared and where we meet Christ, especially in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We rejoice, and expect that this growth will continue.

INTERNET SCHOOL OF ORTHODOX STUDIES

The Department of Religious Education of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America announces the Fall 2000 schedule of Religious Education classes for adults, over the internet. According to the Rev. Dr. Frank Marangos, Director of the Department of Religious Education and founder of the Internet School of Orthodox Studies (ISOS), the theme of the Fall Semester is: "Meeting the Holy Fathers." The series of ten 60-minute educational classes is based on the 5-Year Strategic Plan of the Department of Religious Education. The goal is to assist Orthodox Christians to more fully understand the theology of the Fathers in Orthodox Tradition. The sessions will be broadcast, beginning at 7:30 p.m.(EST) on the following dates:

November 7: Maximos the Confessor: Humanity

More Festival 2000 Highlights



Constantine Newman, pastor of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Lexington, Massachusetts. A certificate of educational recognition will be awarded to those who take the classes. The syllabus, bibliography and class notes can be downloaded from the ISOS site. The ISOS web site address is: www.goarch.org/webcasts/religioused.html.

PHILOPTOHOS SOCIETY

Many questions have been asked as to why we have a Philoptochos. What are its aims and purposes? What does the organization strive to accomplish?

The Philoptochos Society is the only official philanthropic organization of the Greek Orthodox Church in America. We are also the largest women's Christian Philanthropic Organization in America. The name Philoptochos literally means *friends of the poor*. If there are no poor, then we have to be *philanthropists, philanthropies, philoxenos, and philochristos*. In addition to our philanthropic endeavors, we try to preserve the sacredness of the Orthodox Family and promote the Greek Orthodox Faith.

Throughout the years, the Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos Society has been successful in raising money through their wonderful projects to fulfill their ministries on a local level, the Diocese level and the National Philoptochos commitment level. The current projects which we are involved in are preparing the lunch for Memorials on request, sponsoring the Crab Feed, and the Xmas tree program. In addition, once a month, a local bus tour visits various churches in San Francisco and stops at our church for lunch and a tour of our church.

Our philanthropy on a local community level is as follows:

- We have a standing committee visiting seniors who are sick and cannot leave their homes. We also visit those in convalescent homes.

- Christmas gifts for young children are given to a local home for women with children who cannot afford to buy these gifts.

- Support and help for families in a financial crisis.

- Every month we give financial support to certain individuals.

- A recent project we have undertaken is to provide support to battered women of Greek origin.

On the Diocese level we support the Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund. This Fund offers tuition support to San Francisco Diocese students attending Hellenic College/Holy Cross Orthodox School of Theology . This year the

Holiday Luncheon which will benefit this fund will be held at Holy Trinity Church on Saturday, December 2, 2000.

On the national level, chapters throughout the United States contribute to the National Philoptochos Commitment Programs. These programs are as follows: Social services, Cardiac Fund, St. Photios Shrine, Hellenic College/Holy Cross, St. Basil's Academy, Cancer Fund and UNICEF.

For those who are not presently members of our Society, please think about joining our organization. Volunteerism should be a part of everyone's life. It's a great way to make new friends and help others in need.

I would like to share with you the following message:

"The only thing that can remove poverty is sharing. Jesus came to the poorest, to teach people to love one another, which is to share - to use the gifts that God has given to people who have, to share with those people who have not."

--Mother Teresa

Angie Leventis
Member of Philoptochos Society

STEWARSHIP 2000

Remembering our past...Embracing our future.....

Our push toward 100%!

With eight weeks left for Stewardship 2000, the stewardship committee would

like to thank all 560 pledged stewards for their commitment to Annunciation Cathedral. This year has shown tremendous growth in many of our programs, due partly to the fact that the stewardship has increased. Please take time now to send in any final payments to help make this year a record breaker!

The stewardship committee thanks the following stewards, whose pledges were received from August 20th. It's not to late to pledge for 2000!

Choulos, Vasilios & Laura
Cois, James T. & Nina
Contakos, Anastasia
Costantinou, Marianne
Derdevanis, Phillip
Gebremichael, Tesfay
Haras, Louis / Panagiota
Kaiafas, Tasos & Kristina
Karkazis, Mr. & Mrs. George L.
King, Thomas
Lappos, Denis & Regina
Makras, Elaine
Mountanos, Mark
Mountanos, S. M. & Helen
Nager, Perri
Navarrette, Melina Kostourakis

Panomitos, Demetra
Panos, Alexander S.
Pappas, Katherine
Radovich, Mr. & Mrs. Ray
Raggio, Nicholas & Anastasia
Sarantitis, Anthony & Ingrid
Sarikakis, Mr. & Mrs. Tracy
Zambelis, John & Pamfilia
Zografos, Spiro & Eva

SACRAMENTS AND SERVICES AT THE CATHEDRAL

BAPTISMS

Yiannis Elias, son of Elias and Eleni Stratoudakis Papadokonstadakis, was baptized on October 8, by his Godparents, Aris and Maria Lambiris.

Alexandra Eleni, daughter of Stephen and Anna Calofonos Noetzel, was baptized on October 14, by her Godparents Angelica Calofonos and Todd Noetzel.

Na mas zisoun!

MARRIAGE

The marriage of Bill Vasilios Aivalikllis and Melissa Lea Bergeron was blessed on October 21. Their sponsor was Nicholas J. Rally.

Na mas zisoun!

FUNERAL

Funeral services were held on October 23 for Despina (Dora) Haramis, who died on October 20.

Aionia autis i mnimi!

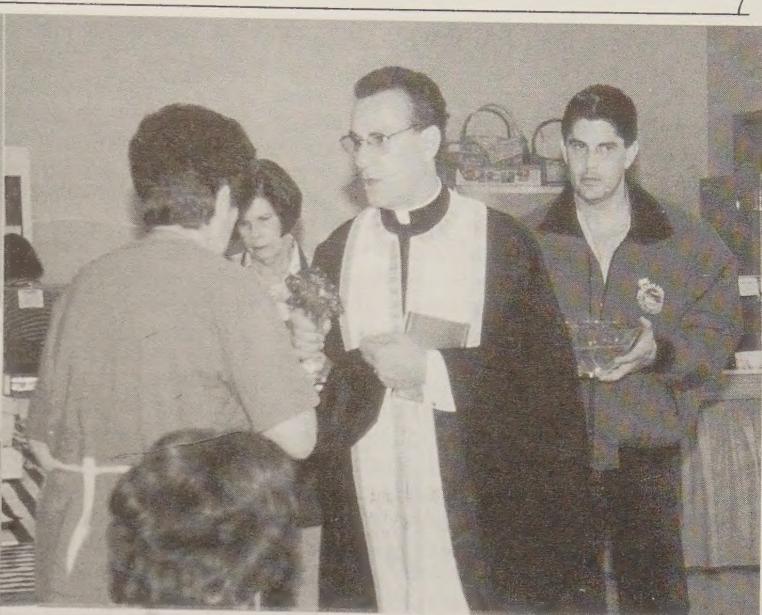
MISSION NEIGHBORHOOD JOB FAIR

A free JOB FAIR will be held at the Employment Development Dept. at 3120 Mission Street (at Cesar Chavez) in San Francisco on Tuesday, November 14, 2000 between 9:30am and 2:30 pm. This gives people an opportunity to meet some major employers in the District who are anxious to hire.

Bring your resume and dress for a job interview. Staff will be available to provide suggestions and interviewing tips. Employers may want to see your right-to-work identification (original Social Security card and state-issued photo ID, or other appropriate documents).

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Could you or someone you know benefit from a larger Social Security check? A program sponsored by the Social Security Administration and the State of California may be able to help. Low income senior citizens and persons with disabilities should call 1(877)772-702 (-7003 TTY) or call or visit their local Social Security office to find out if they are eligible.



ORTHODOX AND CATHOLIC BISHOPS ADOPT DIALOGUE STATEMENT AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING IN CRETE

CHANIA, CRETE - The North American Joint Committee of Orthodox and Catholic Bishops adopted a statement on the Orthodox-Catholic dialogue at the conclusion of its 17th meeting, which was held on the island of Crete near Chania, Greece, from October 2nd to 4th. The statement, the full text of which is found below, takes stock of the dialogue between the two churches at both the international and national levels, and calls for an intensification of their relationship, since "continued dialogue in love is the only way that our churches can be faithful to Our Lord's command to love one another, and to be reconciled." The bishops joined their "prayer to those of Orthodox and Catholic faithful around the world that our churches may continue to set aside the animosities of the past and look forward in hope to that blessed day when we shall once again be united around the common table of our Lord."

Before the meeting several of the Catholic and Orthodox bishops made a pilgrimage to monastic communities on Mount Athos, the renowned center of Orthodox monasticism, where they were warmly received. This pilgrimage was in preparation for a discussion of monasticism in the East and West. Archbishop Rembert Weakland presented a paper entitled The Apostolic Letter Orientale Lumen and Monasticism East and West, and Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh responded. The bishops also heard a paper by Archbishop Vsevolod of Scopelos: Primacy and Conciliarity. The role of the laity in our churches was the theme of the final session. Archbishop Weakland presented a paper entitled, The Role of the Laity: from Vatican Council II to the Bishops' Synod of 1987, and Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh offered a response from an Orthodox perspective. After each paper a lively discussion ensued.

In the information session, the bishops exchanged views on recent events that affect the relationship between our churches, such as the situation in Ukraine and Kosovo, and discussed recent documents such as Dominus Iesus and the Note on the term "sister churches" from the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

This meeting of the Joint Committee of Bishops took place at the Orthodox Academy of Crete, a center of learning and dialogue founded in 1968 under the spiritual protection of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The bishops expressed their gratitude to Dr. Alexandros Papaderos, the Director of the Academy. They were also honored to meet the venerable local hierarch, Metropolitan Irenaeos

of Kissamos and Selinon, as well as Metropolitan Irenaeos of Chania and other local leaders and friends of the Academy at a dinner on the evening of October 2nd. Both hierarchs welcomed the group to Crete and expressed strong support for ongoing ecumenical dialogue between our churches.

The Joint Committee of Orthodox and Catholic Bishops was established in 1981 and is currently under the joint chairmanship of Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh and Archbishop Rembert Weakland of Milwaukee. Other Orthodox members include Archbishop Peter of New York (Orthodox Church in America), Archbishop Vsevolod of Scopelos (Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA), Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese), Metropolitan Christopher (Serbian Orthodox Church), Metropolitan Nicholas of Amissos (Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese), Bishop Seraphim of Ottawa and All Canada (Orthodox Church in America), and Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, staff). Other Catholic members of the Committee include William Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, Archbishop Alexander Brunett of Seattle, Archbishop Oscar Lipscomb of Mobile, Bishop Robert Mulvee of Providence, Bishop Dale Melczek of Gary, Bishop Edward Kmiec of Nashville, Bishop Nicholas Samra, Auxiliary of the Melkite Greek Catholic Eparchy of Newton, and Rev. Ronald G. Roberson, CSP (staff). In addition to this Joint Committee of Orthodox and Catholic Bishops, a North American Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation has been meeting continuously since 1965.

Statement On the Catholic-Orthodox Dialogue At the Dawn of a New Millennium

The North American Joint Committee of Orthodox and Catholic Bishops Orthodox Academy of Crete, Chania, Greece October 4, 2000: Our Joint Committee of Orthodox and Catholic Bishops was founded in 1981 as a forum where Orthodox and Catholic hierarchs from the United States and Canada could discuss pastoral matters of concern to both our churches. Gathered together now at our 17th meeting, we wish to take stock of our Joint Committee's work, and to affirm the importance of continued and intensified dialogue between our two communions.

We look back with joy on the dramatic events of the 1960s that brought an end to the many centuries of hostility that kept us apart from one another. The meeting between Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras and Pope Paul VI in Jerusalem in 1964 was followed by the formal lifting of the 1054 anathemas on December 7, 1965. Those excommunications were reversed, to be replaced by relationships of love -- they were "erased from the memory of the Church" and "con-

signed to oblivion." The growing dialogue of charity between Catholics and Orthodox led finally to the establishment of an official International Joint Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I and Pope John Paul II when the Pope visited Istanbul in November 1979. This renewed relationship has been symbolized by the semiannual exchange of delegations between the sister churches of Rome and Constantinople on their respective feast days, and a rejection among our faithful of "every form of proselytism, every attitude which would or could be perceived as a lack of respect" (Common Declaration of Pope John Paul II and Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I, December 7, 1987).

With gratitude we note that this theological dialogue was anticipated by almost 15 years in the United States. Prior to the establishment of our Joint Committee of Orthodox and Catholic Bishops in 1981, an official Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation had been meeting since September 9, 1965, even before the excommunications were lifted. In North America, where Catholics and Orthodox live side by side in a place that is to a large extent free of the political and religious tension that has often been present in our countries of origin, our theological dialogue has been able to make much progress and to address various theological and pastoral questions touching upon our relationship. At its June 2000 meeting, our North American Theological Consultation issued a document entitled, "Sharing the Ministry of Reconciliation: Statement on the Orthodox-Catholic Dialogue and the Ecumenical Movement." We wish to express our satisfaction with this important text, and we recommend it warmly to our faithful. We make our own its evaluation of the Catholic-Orthodox dialogue and the broader ecumenical movement as rooted in the very actions of God who "desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (I Tim. 2:4).

The fall of communism in Eastern and Central Europe and the establishment of religious freedom in those countries ten years ago now is a source of deep joy for all people of faith. But these profound changes also unleashed hostilities between our communities there that had remained under the surface, undressed during the long years of persecution, isolation, and silence. These problems focused on the status of the Eastern Catholic Churches and questions of property. At the same time, strident currents emerged in both our churches in those areas, fueled in part by the suspicion that ecumenism was a betrayal of the true faith, and that it had been manipulated by the communist authorities for their own ends in an attempt to weaken authentic Christian witness. This points to the urgent need to present

common at a level deeper than our divisions and theological formulae.

All this has had a negative impact on the international dialogue which for the past ten years has been struggling to deal in a satisfactory way with the question of the status of the Eastern Catholic Churches. We regret that the Eighth Plenary Session of the international dialogue, held in July 2000 at Emmitsburg, Maryland, was unable to make progress on this and other significant issues.

The difficulties that have recently beset the international dialogue do not alter our conviction that continued dialogue in love is the only way that our churches can be faithful to Our Lord's command to love one another, and to be reconciled. Indeed, when difficulties arise the need for dialogue becomes even greater. As we look back on our experience of dialoguing with one another as bishops of the Orthodox and Catholic churches, we realize that through an honest and well informed exchange of views a solution to even the most persistent disagreements can be perceived. Our Joint Committee of Bishops has issued statements dealing with Ordination, Mixed Marriages and the recent tensions in Eastern and Central Europe, and we are confident that much

more progress can be made on these and other issues. We encourage our Orthodox and Catholic faithful everywhere to engage one another in an exchange of views in a spirit of openness and humility so that the Spirit's work of reconciliation might continue, for the glory of God.

Our Joint Committee is meeting on the island of Crete, whose soil has been fed by the blood of a host of martyrs, and whose history has not been unaffected by our sad divisions. We take this opportunity to give thanks to God for the great strides that have been made to overcome what divides us. As the new millennium dawns, we join our prayer to those of Orthodox and Catholic faithful around the world that our churches may continue to set aside the animosities of the past and look forward in hope to that blessed day when we shall once again be united around the common table of our Lord.

(NOTE: From time to time, we have been reprinting articles and news releases about Inter-Orthodox, inter-Christian (ecumenical), and Inter-Faith endeavors, as that which appears above, in an attempt to educate and inform our faithful. Indeed, many of you have told us that you enjoy reading these articles. There are some groups,

however, who do not espouse the dialogue approach described above. One recently came to our attention, purporting to be the views of a group which calls itself Orthodox, and calling the dialogue or ecumenical approach a "selling out," in view of the claims of the Orthodox Church to be the "One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church." We hereby state that the dialogue or ecumenical approach is that which has been adopted by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and virtually by every other Orthodox Church in the world as "a dialogue of love." True, there are differences, there are divisions, there are heresies, but these came about throughout the centuries precisely because of a lack of dialogue. Healing divisions does not happen in an instant; it is a step-by-step process, and a necessary one, if our own goal accords with the Lord's prayer "that they all may be one" and if what motivates us is love. This is especially important in our time, and in our country, and in view of the multi-cultural, and fragmented, world in which we live. We hope that you will find these comments to be not only informative, but challenging as well, to the deepening of our faith in Jesus Christ and His Holy Church.)

November 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Basketball 1	7- "ACTION" Class 2		Greek School Zakynthian Dinner 4
Sunday: 9:00 - Orthros 10:30 - Liturgy 10:30 - Sunday School Students go directly to class		Dance Practice Back to Basics 5	Basketball 7- Council Candidates Seminar 7-Health Comm. 6	7- "ACTION" Class 8		Greek School Grecian Spotlight Dinner + 11 10
12:30-Bible Study 12		Dance Practice Back to Basics 13	Basketball 7-Parish Council Meeting 14	7- "ACTION" Class 15		Greek School 6:30 - PENTAHILARIKON 17 18
12:30-Bible Study 19		Prese/Theotokos 10 - Liturgy 12-Philoptochos Back to Basics 20 + 21		Thanksgiving 10-Divine Liturgy 22		Greek School 24 25
12:30-Bible Study 12:30 - JOY Outing 26		Dance Practice Back to Basics 27	Basketball 28	7- "ACTION" Class 29 + 30		

EVENTS TO REMEMBER

November 12
IOCC Dinner
Castro Valley

November 18
Pentahiliarikon

December 10
-Parish Council
Elections
-Choral Program

December 17
Sunday School
Christmas
Program

January 26
Crab Feed
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(B. A. C. H.)

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J.S. Bach  
Prayer After the Canon,  
Arvo Pärt  
Plus works by Tikey Zes  
and more



Sunday, December 10, 2000 - 5:30 PM  
Tickets - \$12 at the door.

Proceeds benefit the Annunciation Building Fund.

## ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103-2320



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